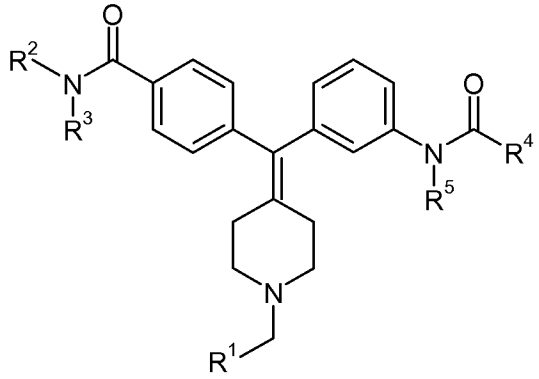
Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



I

wherein

R^1 is ~~selected from~~ C_{6-10}aryl ~~and~~ or C_{2-6}heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10}aryl and C_{2-6}heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~; and

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR_2, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R^1 is ~~selected from~~ phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; ~~and~~ or N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl,~~ $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R^2, R^3, and R^4 are, independently, C_{1-3}alkyl or halogenated C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^5 is ~~selected from~~ hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~and~~ or C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl,~~ $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R^1 is ~~selected from~~ phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl; ~~and~~ or thiazolyl, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl,~~ $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R^2, R^3, and R^4 are, independently, C_{1-3}alkyl or halogenated C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^5 is hydrogen.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R^1 is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, and thiazolyl;

R^2 and R^3 are ethyl;

R^4 is C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^5 is hydrogen.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:
4-{[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(thien-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-*N*,*N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-{[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(2-furylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-*N*,*N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;
4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(3-thienylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;
4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;
4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;
4-{[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-{[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-{[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. (cancelled)

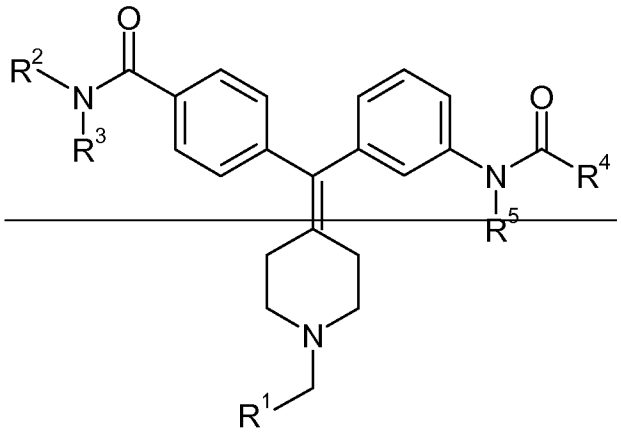
7. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

10. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

11. (currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I according to claim 1, comprising:



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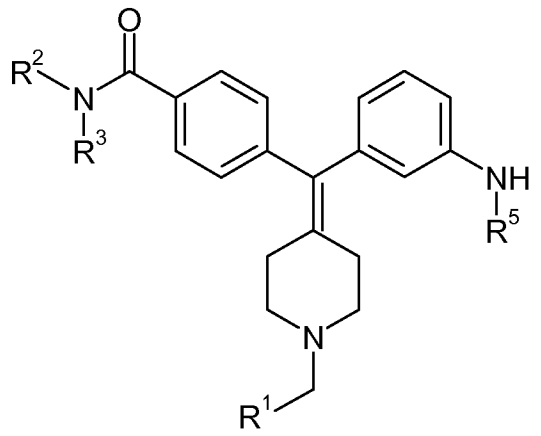
reacting a compound of formula II with X-C(=O)-R^4 or R^4C(=O)-OC(=O)R^4:



II

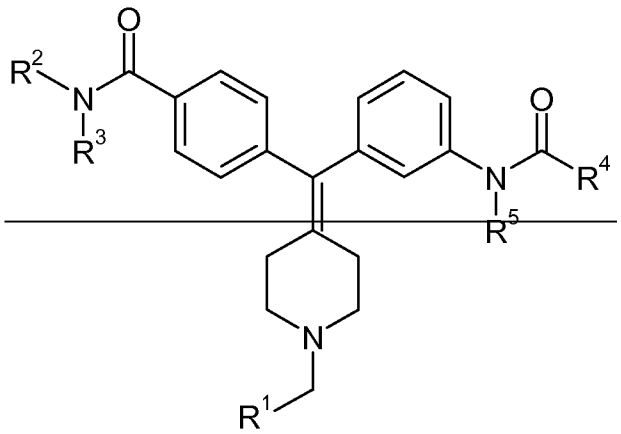
wherein

R^1 is ~~selected from~~ C_{6-10}aryl ~~and~~ or C_{2-6}heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10}aryl and C_{2-6}heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~;

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~; and

X is Cl, Br or I.

12. (currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I, according to claim 1 comprising:



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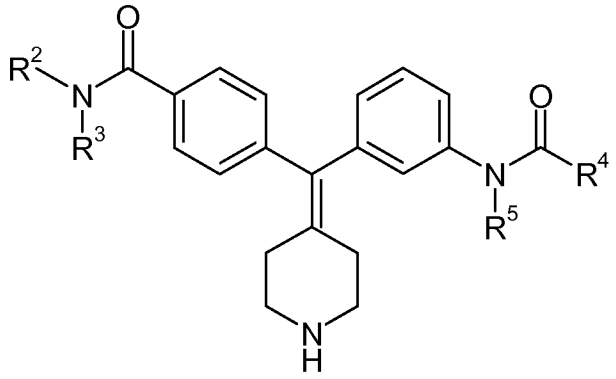
reacting a compound of formula III with R^1-CHO or R^1-CH_2X:



III

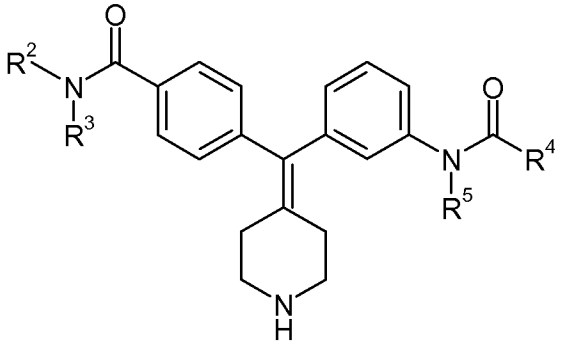
wherein

R^1 is ~~selected from~~ C_{6-10}aryl ~~and~~ or C_{2-6}heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10}aryl and C_{2-6}heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, $-NO_2$, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~; and

X is Cl, Br or I.

13. (original) A compound of formula III:



III

wherein

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ -NO_2, ~~-OR,~~ -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and -CF_3, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH_2, -SH, -NHR, -NR_2, -SR, -SO_3H, -SO_2R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR_2, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O) OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~.

14. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2.

15. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3.

16. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of anxiety comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

17. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of anxiety comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2.

18. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of anxiety comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3.

19. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 4 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 13, wherein the compound is 4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl](piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethylbenzamide.